

## **EcoRA Work Group Conference Call - Dec. 21, 2000, 9:00 - 9:25 AM**

### Participants:

Steven Hughes, URS Greiner

Harry Ohlendorf, CH2M Hill

Anne Dailey, EPA

Brad Frazier, USFWS

Brenda Osterhaug, CH2M Hill

Randy Connolly, Spokane Tribe

Trudy Pulley, CH2M Hill

### EcoRA Schedule Update:

- Comments submitted on the Draft EcoRA are currently being evaluated.
- The plan is to discuss comment resolution on upcoming EcoRA Work Group conference calls or on separately scheduled conference calls as appropriate.
- The comments and brief description of comment resolution will be entered into an Access database.
- EPA anticipates sharing the outputs from the database with commenters in late January/early February. A two week period will be provided for parties to review the database outputs and provide feedback to EPA.
- Barring unexpected delays, we are anticipating having the Final EcoRA ready for distribution in late April.

### Draft EcoRA Tech Memo 1 (entitled: Evaluation of Secondary Effects of Mining-Related Hazardous Substances on Physical and Biological Ecosystem Characteristics).

- This tech memo will be available for review by the EcoRA Work Group in late January and comments due in mid-February. The final tech memo will be included as an attachment to the final EcoRA.
- The EcoRA is primarily focused on the chemical contamination from mining-related activities; however, these activities have also altered physical and biological characteristics of the CDA Basin resulting in degradation of ecological function and habitat structure. These secondary effects can negatively impact ecological receptors. EcoRA Tech Memo 1 will provide a characterization of the secondary effects, provide an analytical basis for development of +50% minus 30% design requirements for bioengineering typical conceptual designs for the EcoFS remedial alternatives, and support development of interim cleanup goals.

### DEcoRA Comment Issues:

1) UPRR samples - As discussed on the 12/7/00 EcoRA call, some UPRR ROW samples were included in the TDM database and there is now some question whether all of the UPRR samples should have been included since cleanup activities are proceeding as part of the rails-to-trails project. The UPRR settlement addresses contamination in the RR track area via removals or barrier installation. The decision has been made to include all of the UPRR ROW samples should be included in the eco risk evaluation EXCEPT for the samples collected in the RR mainline or siding centerlines. This change has been implemented in the last two weeks.

## 2) Database Issues

Trudy Pulley, CH2M Hill, is resolving a few issues concerning the TDM database (e.g., UPRR samples, correcting erroneous units on several samples, etc.). She expects to have these issues resolved early next week. Then the database will be transmitted to those doing the ecorisk calculations.

### Next Teleconference:

- Next EcoRA call will be on January 2, 2001 at 9 AM PST
- Call-in number is 206-553-4557; no pass code required
- topics of discussion will include:
  - status of the EcoRA
  - discussion of specific comments received
  - other topics as appropriate